

+Dear QOA Families,

Here is a story that to me is evidence that your sacrifice in sending your child/ren to Queen of Angels School really makes a positive difference. Today, since we were not able to go outside, I was walking around the classrooms monitoring the students and when I went into the seventh grade, the entire class was standing, praying the rosary. I asked them to pause and they did. The students then told me they didn't really have anything to do, so they decided to pray the rosary. They prayed the entire rosary, not just a decade. I relayed to them that in my 23 years as principal, never have I come across any class putting their faith into action as they have this afternoon. It certainly touched my heart. I know that the Blessed Mother was definitely smiling down upon her beloved children. Mary, Queen of Angels, pray for them, and all of us!

Thank you once again for all you are doing in collaborating with us to provide a healthy school environment. According to Dr. McLaughlin's latest letter, that was communicated this morning, we are asking that if a member of the family has been exposed to COVID, then please have your child participate in virtual learning for two weeks. This will help mitigate the possible spread of the virus. At QOA, we are doing everything we possibly can to remain open; therefore, with all of us working together this will continue to be a reality.

Please, please be sure that your children follow the Montgomery County Office of Health guidelines for Halloween. This is an excellent resource to which you may want to refer to for the safety of your family. This website, <https://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/29008/Montgomery-County-Halloween-Guidance>, has provided some fun and creative Halloween activities while reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Another worthwhile website <https://bit.ly/3mzxPXu> clarifies the importance of social distancing and cautions readers that even contact with others for a short period of time can also spread the virus.

At QOA, we too will enjoy some Halloween festivities. The Student Council has been hard at work creating a virtual Halloween Fun House video for the enjoyment of each class. Tomorrow, October 30, Teachers and Students may participate in a \$1 or more donation Halloween dress down day to support the Marion Bolger Room at Our Lady of Confidence School. The Marion Bolger Room provides services to young adults with special needs. Thank you for your support. In addition, teachers are planning some Halloween festivities for their students. Although, the traditional Halloween activities take on a different look this year, there will still be Spooktacular, fun activities  for all.

As you may know, Halloween used to be known as "All Hallows' Eve – the "eve" before All Saints Day, or "all hallows." In times past, feast days were marked by a vigil celebration the night before, similar to the importance we place on Christmas Eve today, as well as the Easter Vigil. On All Saints Day, we honor all the men, women, and children who followed Christ with love in their lives. May we strive to imitate the saints in our lives.

Saints of God, pray for us and especially for our country, in these days of unrest! We pray for the safety of all while we perform our civic duty and vote on November 3. God bless America!

In Mary's Immaculate Heart, I am,
Sister Mary

